

1999 Session of the Indiana General Assembly

State budget provides tax cuts, funding for education

The new state budget will make a very real difference in the lives of many Hoosiers. Some of the highlights include:

Program Funding

- Public education: Statewide total formula funding increase of an average of 4.7 percent in calendar years 2000 and 2001, with minimum guarantees of funding increases of at least 2.5%. Funding was increased for both at-risk and academic honors programs. Local schools and libraries also received \$76 million in technology funding.
- CHOICE: \$5 million increase per year in funding for home health care for the elderly
- Higher Education: appropriations were increased by 7.0 percent in fiscal year 2000 and 4.7 percent in 2001
- Vocational education: incentives for school corporations to provide programs in which high employment demand exists
- A new \$50 million 21st Century Research and Technology Fund that will promote high-tech industries located in Indiana
- Social Services: Funding for the seriously mentally ill is increased by \$3 million in 2000 and \$6 million in 2001. MRDD programs will receive an additional \$9 million in funding.

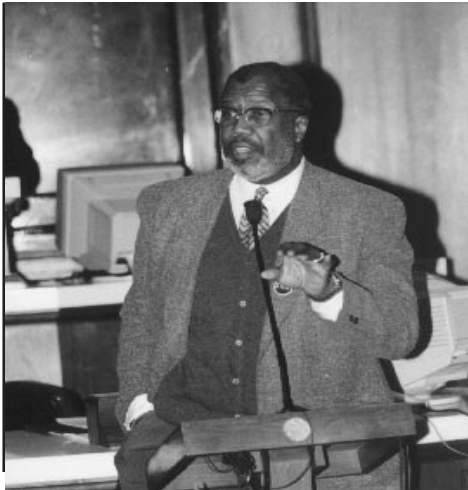
Savings to Taxpayers

- Elimination of county welfare fund and county welfare administration funds from local property taxes (two-year savings: \$67.6 million);
- Elimination of inventory tax for 87 percent of farms and businesses (two-year savings: \$129.6 million).

Additional \$200 million approved for Indiana roads

I was pleased we appropriated an additional \$200 million from the state general fund for local roads over the next two years. This is in addition to the regular funding from gas taxes. Many of you have indicated your strong desire to see us do more road improvements throughout the state.

Lake County received \$2.2 million in additional funding while the city of Gary will receive \$3.4 million. The amount for Gary is in addition to the total for the county. The amount appropriated to each city is based on the population of the city.



Rep. Brown speaks during debate on the House floor



Rep. Brown discusses legislation with Rep. Paul Robertson.

Build Indiana Projects
District 3 - Gary

Gary YWCA	\$200,000
Brothers Keepers, Inc.	\$325,000
National Civil Rights Museum & Hall of Fame	\$100,000
Beverly Shores Walking Path	\$50,000
Hoosier Boys Town	\$25,000
African American Achievers	\$175,000

Hoosiers will save \$672 million over next two years in tax cuts

- Homeowners: a new income tax deduction for property taxes up to \$2500
- Senior citizens: an increase in the income tax deduction from \$1000 to \$1500 and an increase in the property tax deduction for seniors from \$1000 to \$2000
- Dependent children: an increase in the income tax deduction from \$1000 to \$2500
- Small Businesses and Farmers: property tax “add-back” repealed so farmers and business owners can deduct the amount of their property taxes from their state income taxes
- Renters: increased the income tax deduction from \$1500 to \$2000

1999 Gary Questionnaire

I hope you will answer these questions concerning important issues in Gary. Please place a stamp on the reverse side and return to me at the Statehouse.

Gary Community Mental Health Center

- Are you aware that the Board of Directors for the Gary Community Mental Health Center, Inc. voted to change its name to Edgewater Systems for Balanced Living?
- Do you believe “Gary” should have been removed from the name of the center?
- Are you aware that the Board of Directors for the center determines the actual members of the Board?
- Forty percent of the current board members (6 out of 15) are not Gary residents. Do you believe that board members should be required to reside in Gary?
- The board receives a majority of its funding from taxpayers. Do you believe the public should have greater input in the practices and procedures of the center?

Gary School Board

- Lake County Court ruled a new law invalid that would have required all Gary school board candidates to be elected within districts but by all voters of Gary. This would have made school board members responsive to the needs of all students instead of localized issues specifically in their districts. Do you believe Gary school board members should be elected by all of the voters in Gary?
- Do you think those who resist change for the Gary School Board have placed:
A. their own interests first? B. the interests of Gary’s schoolchildren first?

	Respondent 1		Respondent 2	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Rep. Charlie Brown
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Call the Statehouse Toll-Free
1-800-382-9842

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Representatives

House publications available

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling toll-free 1-800-382-9842:

Relax . . . -- This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education -- A 24-page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Guide to State Agencies -- This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

Hoosier Fun and Facts -- Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

Is the address label on this mailing correct?

Please check the address label on this mailing for accuracy. If there are any errors or if you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact my office at 1-800-382-9842. Every effort will be made to correct the mistake.

I appreciate your assistance in keeping the mailing list updated. This will ultimately result in more efficient delivery and substantial savings to taxpayers across the state.

*How to Contact
Representative
Charlie Brown*

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